

REMARKS

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections are respectfully requested in view of the amendments and remarks herein.

I. STATUS OF CLAIMS AND FORMAL MATTERS

Claims 7-15 are under consideration in this application. Claim 9 is cancelled. Claims 7, 10-11, and 13-15 are amended.

Support for the amendments can be found throughout the specification. The first paragraph of the specification was amended to identify PCT/JP2004/015193, filed October 7, 2004, and Japanese application 2003-351825, filed October 10, 2003, to which the instant application claims priority. A certified copy of the English translation of the Japanese priority application will be filed as soon as it is available.

No new matter was added by this amendment.

It is submitted that claims 7, 8, and 10-15 are patentable over the prior art, and that these claims are in full compliance with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §112.

II. THE REJECTION OF CLAIMS 7-15 UNDER 35 U.S.C. §102(a) IS OVERCOME

Claims 7-15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(a) as allegedly being anticipated by Miyazawa et al. (JP Pat. 20033119940). The rejection is traversed.

This application claims priority to Japanese Application 2003-351825 filed October 10, 2003. While applicants' do not concede the relevance of Miyazawa et al. to applicants' claims, the priority date of present application et al. precedes the publication date of Miyazawa et al., which is November 11, 2003, so the rejection of Claims 1-15 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) should be withdrawn.

III. THE REJECTION OF CLAIMS 7-8 UNDER 35 U.S.C. §102(b) IS OVERCOME

Claims 7 and 8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b), as allegedly being anticipated by Sasaki et al. (US. Pat. 5,815,183). The subject matter of Claim 9, which was allowed over Sasaki et al., was added to Claim 7. Claim 7 is amended to include: "central axis of the ink discharge port is directed obliquely downward with respect to the direction in which the upper surface of the container body extends." This is not anticipated by Sasaki et al.

Therefore, the rejections reconsideration and withdrawal are requested.

IV. THE REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §103(a) ARE OVERCOME

Claims 7-15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(b) as allegedly being unpatentable over Steinmetz et al. (US Pat. 6,959,985) in view of Miyazawa et al. (JP Pat. 2003311994). As described above, Miyazawa et al. is not a reference under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) and therefore cannot form a basis for rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103(a). Consequently, this rejection is overcome and its reconsideration and withdrawal are requested.

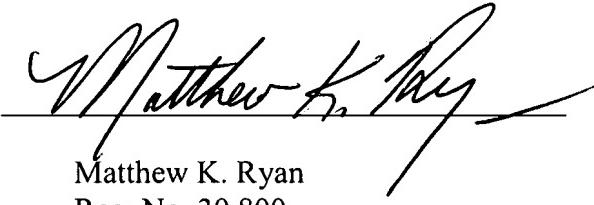
CONCLUSION

In view of the remarks and amendments, the application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of the application and prompt issuance of a Notice of Allowance are earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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